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The Critical Period 1763-1765. Edited by CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD, University of Illinois, and CLARENCE EDWIN CARTER, Miami University. Volume X of *Illinois Historical Collections Series*. VII+597 pp.

THIS book of sources is the first volume of the British series covering the period of Illinois history from 1763-1778. It presents in accessible form documents scattered from the Mississippi to London, and except in cases where the originals were not to be found, all were copied directly or verified from the originals. The editor's introduction to the volume covers the period of 1763-1765 in excellent manner. The Sir William Johnson letters are of especial value since the loss of the Johnson manuscripts in the Albany fire. The documents are grouped under chapter headings, which serves to break the monotony often found with mere chronological arrangement. The eleven chapters deal with The Organization of the Western Territory, March to December, 1763; Banishment of the Jesuits; Proposed Colony of Charlottina; The Journal of M. Dabbadie, 1763-1764; Major Loftus' Attempts to Reach the Illinois, December 5, 1763, to April 9, 1764; Accounts from the Illinois, April 4, 1764, to June 29, 1764; The Regulation of Indian Affairs, July 10, 1764, to November 9, 1764; Letters About the Indians, October 8, 1764, to November 9, 1764; Close of the Indian War, November 9, 1764, to January 16, 1765; British Messengers are Sent to the Illinois Country, January 13, 1765, to February 24, 1765; The First British Agents Reach the Illinois Country, February 25, 1765, to July, 1765. The appendix contains a number of letters discovered too late to be printed in the proper places. The volume contains photogravures of Sir William Johnson, and General Gage, and some photographs of early trade licenses, etc. A complete index makes the volume very usable.

R. C. BULEY.

County Archives of Illinois. By THEODORE CALVIN PEASE, University of Illinois. In *Illinois Historical Collections*, Vol. XII, Bibliographical Series Vol. III. Published by Trustees of Illinois State Historical Library. Springfield, Illinois. pp. 730. 1915.

IT is difficult to appreciate the amount of time and labor which a compilation of this sort entails. Convinced that the sources for the history of the State would be incomplete without a detailed account

of the materials of interest to the social scientist found in the various county courthouses of the State of Illinois, Mr. Pease set himself to this task.

The records of each of the 102 counties have been systematically and painstakingly ransacked. The exact location of every record, report and document was noted by the investigator. As a result one has only to turn to the pages of this Manual to ascertain the exact spot where the records of any county are kept.

In each county the records are arranged in the following order: County Clerk, Probate Clerk, Circuit Clerk, and Recorder, with the various subdivisions under each. By a system of abbreviations (explained in the Introduction) the exact location of all records is given.

A very brief sketch of the courthouse, the condition of the records, and frequently a criticism of the method of record-keeping employed in the county, precedes the outline of the materials, in each case.

The counties are given in alphabetical order, save Cook county, which is placed first because of its size. In examining the various county records two ends were constantly kept in view; the first was to appraise the historical value of the records and to list their contents for the benefit of future research; the second was to determine whether the records of the past were adequately protected from fire, damp and decay, and whether the records of the present are made by methods which insure both economy of space and permanence.

More than a hundred pages at the outset are devoted to the history of the County Archives of Illinois. In this history the editor traces the rise of the various record officers as well as the methods employed for record preservation and filing in the past. The author also sets forth some valuable advice upon archive keeping and gives a short sketch of the conditions of Archive Science in the United States. So far, effective application of archive methods to records of local jurisdiction has been confined to New England. A few years ago legislatures of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut provided for commissioners of public records with general supervision over county and town records.

The author discovered that out of ninety-one county courthouses where records were kept, forty-four were not fireproof, ten were

doubtful. The recommendations and suggestions to county clerks and record keepers by a man who has worked through the great mass of Illinois county records, should be given due consideration. The author strongly urges the centralization of certain kinds of county records, as election returns. Often they are destroyed a few months after election. It is the opinion of the author that the county records can not be too highly estimated as a source of State and local history. The county records are of invaluable aid to a writer desiring to show the gradual progress of his State—how the present State came into being. These records bring one closer to the actual life of early Illinois. They help one into the spirit of the period. In the words of the author: "These records are the very incarnation of the State's past." Such a work upon the county archives of Indiana would aid greatly the work of those who are endeavoring to work out the history of Indiana.

R. BLANK.

The Pioneers of Morgan County: Memoirs of Noah J. Major.

Edited by LOGAN ESAREY, Ph.D. Indianapolis, 1915. 285 p.

THE MEMOIRS of Noah J. Major constitute the fifth number of volume five of the Indiana Historical Society Publications. These *Memoirs* were written between the years 1900 and 1908. Mr. Major was born in 1823 and moved to Morgan county, then on the very frontier of the State, in 1832. From that date until 1911 the author lived near Martinsville, a pioneer who progressed with the country which he helped develop. Towards the end of a life which spanned the period in which central Indiana grew from an Indian hunting ground to a prosperous part of a modern State, Mr. Major looked back and gave us one of the best pictures of our pioneer life and institutions in existence. Occasionally his memory, which was unimpaired by time, was aided by visits to the State Library and reference to records. The first chapter deals with the First Settlers. The second chapter, dealing with the Home Life of the Pioneers is of especial interest. Courtship, Marriage, Housekeeping, Sickness, Hunting, etc., are told of in a most readable style made all the more vivid by a liberal use of the vernacular expressions of the day, and comparisons with modern methods. The hunting stories would provide an abundance of material for supplementary reading for school children. Chapters three and four consist of a discussion of Religion, Schools, Politics, Elections, and